

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**  
**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Daisy Lee Gatson Bates, a courageous and dedicated civil-rights pioneer in our State and our Nation, is best known for her steadfast and influential leadership in the 1957 struggle to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Daisy Bates mentored the Little Rock Nine, the first black students who attempted to attend the previously all-white high school. Governor Orval Faubus called out the National Guard to prevent the young people from enrolling, but President Dwight D. Eisenhower intervened by dispatching the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army to Little Rock to ensure that the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the unconstitutionality of school segregation was enforced; and

WHEREAS: Years earlier, in 1941, Daisy Bates and her husband, L. C. Bates, launched the *Arkansas State Press*, a newspaper that challenged the status quo of African-Americans within the State and Nation; and

WHEREAS: Born in the small town of Huttig, Arkansas, Bates was raised by friends of her parents after her mother was brutally murdered and her father left town. This personal tragedy led her to fight fearlessly and valiantly for justice and equality for all Americans, even as her own life became repeatedly threatened; and

WHEREAS: In 1960, Bates and her husband moved to New York City, where she wrote her memoir, *The Long Shadow of Little Rock*, which won a 1988 National Book Award. She was the only woman to speak at the March on Washington, following Dr. Martin Luther King's, "I Have a Dream" speech; and

WHEREAS: Bates endured numerous hardships, but her unstinting commitment to equality and opportunity was honored by the naming of an official state holiday in Arkansas on the third Monday of every February. Arkansas is the first state to declare a holiday honoring an African-American woman;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim Monday, February 18, 2008, as

**DAISY BATES DAY**

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge my fellow citizens to join me in paying tribute to this great American, who leaves an enduring legacy to all people: a love of justice, freedom, and the right to be educated.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year of our Lord 2008.



ORIGINAL SIGNED  
MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR

ORIGINAL SIGNED  
CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE